

HOUSE No. 4658

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

By Mr. Speliotis of Danvers, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on House, Nos. 244 and 266, A Bill regulating psychotherapy (House, No. 4958).
May 10, 2010.

An Act Regulating Psychotherapy.

FOR THE COMMITTEE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Ten

An Act Regulating Psychotherapy.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 88 of chapter 13 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official edition, is hereby amended by striking the entire section and inserting in place thereof the following:

Section 88. There shall be within the division of professional licensure a board of registration of allied mental health and human services professions, in this section and sections eighty-nine and ninety, which shall consist of thirteen members, one of whom shall be elected as chairperson, to be appointed in the manner provided by section eighty-nine. Members shall be appointed for a term of three years. No member shall be appointed to more than two consecutive full terms; provided, however, that a member appointed for less than a full term may serve two full terms in addition to such part of a full term, and a former member shall again be eligible for appointment after a lapse of one or more years.

Any member of the board may be removed by the governor for neglect of duty, misconduct or malfeasance, or misfeasance in office after being given a written statement of the charges against him and sufficient opportunity to be heard thereon. No member may be removed without a public hearing with at least thirty days prior written notice of the charges and the date fixed for such hearing. All board members shall be subject to chapter 268A. No board member shall participate in any matter before the board in which a pecuniary interest, personal bias, or other similar conflict of interest is established.

Members shall receive no compensation but shall be entitled to reasonable travel expenses. The members of the board shall be public employees for the purposes of chapter 258 for all acts or omissions within the scope of their duties as board members.

SECTION 2. Section 89 of said chapter 13 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official edition, is hereby amended by striking the entire section and inserting in place thereof the following:

25 Section 89. The governor shall appoint members of the board only from among the
26 candidates who meet the following qualifications:

27 (A) Ten members shall be licensed practicing mental health and human services
28 professionals, two of whom shall be marriage and family therapists, two of whom shall be
29 rehabilitation counselors, two of whom shall be clinical mental health counselors, two of
30 whom shall be educational psychologists, two of whom shall be autonomous
31 psychoanalytic psychotherapists or autonomous psychoanalysts; and each shall have been,
32 for at least five years immediately preceding appointment, actively engaged as a
33 practitioner rendering professional services in that field, or in the education and training of
34 graduate students or interns in the field, or in appropriate human developmental research,
35 or in other areas substantially equivalent thereto, and shall have spent the majority of the
36 professional time in such activity during the two years preceding the appointment in the
37 commonwealth, and

38 (B) Three members shall be representatives of the general public who have no direct
39 affiliation with the practice of any allied mental health or human services profession.

40 The appointment of any member of the board shall automatically terminate within thirty
41 days after the date such member is no longer a resident of the commonwealth.

42 Each appointee shall, upon accepting appointment to the board, take and subscribe to the
43 oath or affirmation prescribed by law, and file the same in the office of secretary of state.

44 **SECTION 3. Section 90 of said chapter 13 of the General Laws, as appearing in the**
45 **2008 Official edition, is hereby amended by striking the entire section and inserting**
46 **in place thereof the following:**

47 Section 90. The board shall hold at least two regular meetings each year, but additional
48 meetings may be held upon the call of the chairperson, or the secretary, or upon the
49 written request of any two board members. A majority of the members of the board then
50 appointed shall constitute a quorum; provided, however, that at least one of those present
51 shall be a member who was selected from and who represents the general public.

52 The board shall administer and enforce the provisions of sections one hundred and sixty-
53 three to one hundred and seventy-two, inclusive, of chapter one hundred and twelve. Said
54 board shall promulgate regulations which set forth education requirements necessary for a
55 person to be licensed under the provisions of sections one hundred sixty-five, one hundred
56 sixty-five A, and one hundred sixty-five B of said chapter one hundred and twelve; and the
57 board may, from time to time, adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to
58 carry out the performance of its duties.

59 The director of the division of professional licensure shall have authority to review and
60 approve rules and regulations proposed by the board. Such regulations will be deemed
61 approved unless disapproved within fifteen days of submission to said director; provided,

62 however, that any such disapproval shall be in writing setting forth the reasons for such
63 disapproval.

64 Said board, or its agent, shall examine and pass on the qualifications of all applicants for
65 licenses under sections one hundred and sixty-three to one hundred and seventy-two,
66 inclusive, of chapter one hundred and twelve, and shall issue a license to each successful
67 applicant therefor, attesting to their professional qualifications to be a licensed allied
68 mental health and human services professional. After a person has applied for licensure, no
69 member of the board may supervise such applicant for a fee nor shall any member vote on
70 any applicant previously supervised by such member.

71 Said board may recommend to the governor and the general court, after a public hearing
72 which shall be advertised by publication of notices to the appropriate mental health and
73 human service professional organizations and in major media outlets throughout the
74 commonwealth, modifications and amendments to sections eighty-eight, eighty-nine and
75 this section and sections one hundred and sixty-three to one hundred and seventy-two,
76 inclusive, of chapter one hundred and twelve.

77 Said board shall cause examinations to be held not less than twice annually and shall
78 evaluate examinations to keep them free from cultural bias.

79 Said board shall annually publish a list of names and addresses of persons who are licensed
80 under sections one hundred and sixty-three to one hundred and seventy-two inclusive, of
81 chapter one hundred and twelve.

82 Fees for initial and renewal applications shall be determined annually by the secretary of
83 administration and finance under the provisions of section three B of chapter seven.

84 Said board shall establish regulations for continuing educational requirements for
85 licensees. Said regulations shall not require more than thirty contact hours per year, on
86 average through the term of the license, of approved continuing education programs as a
87 condition for continuing registration.

88 Said board shall cause public hearings to be held prior to setting specifications for any
89 continuing educational requirements.

90 The board shall establish procedures to permit consumers to file written complaints
91 against licensed individuals and investigate and take appropriate action on such
92 complaints.

93 **SECTION 4. Section 65A of chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008**
94 **Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in**
95 **place thereof the following sentence:—**
96

97 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, (i) each board of registration
98 under the supervision of the division of professional licensure, (ii) each board of

registration under the supervision of the department of public health and (iii), in the case of violations of section 65F, the division of professional licensure may, after a consent agreement between the parties or after an opportunity for an adjudicatory proceeding held pursuant to chapter 30A, assess and collect a civil administrative penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for the first violation and a civil administrative penalty not to exceed \$2,500 for a second or subsequent violation upon a person who, without holding the required license, certificate, registration or authority, engages in the practice of a trade or profession for which a license, certificate, registration or authority is required.

SECTION 5. Said chapter 112 as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition is hereby amended by inserting after section 65E the following section:—

Section 65F. Persons shall not hold themselves out to the public as psychotherapists or represent that the service they are offering is psychotherapy, unless (a) they are currently licensed by the board of registration in medicine and practicing within the scope of such license and have completed training in psychiatry, or (b) they are currently licensed by the board of registration in nursing and are practicing within the scope of such license and have completed training in psychiatric nursing, or (c) they are currently licensed by the board of registration of psychologists, the board of registration of social workers, or the board of registration of allied mental health and human services professionals and they are practicing within the scope of practice of such license, or (d) they are a student, intern, or person fulfilling supervised experience for licensure in the above professions under the qualified supervision of a licensee. Any person who violates this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 for the first offense and by a fine of not more than \$2,500 for a second or subsequent offense.

SECTION 6. Said chapter 112 as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition is hereby amended by replacing Sections 163 and 164 with the following:

Section 163. As used in sections one hundred and sixty-three to one hundred and seventy-two, inclusive, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:—

“Advertise”, includes, but is not limited to, distributing or causing to be distributed any card, sign or device to any person; or the causing, permitting or allowing of any sign or marking on or in any building or structure, or in any newspaper or magazine or in any directory, or on radio, television or other electronic medium, or by the use of any other means designed to secure public attention.

“Allied mental health and human services professional”, an educational psychologist, a marriage and family therapist, a mental health counselor, an autonomous psychoanalytic psychotherapist, an autonomous psychoanalyst, or a rehabilitation counselor.

137 “Approved Continuing Education”, continuing education such as research and training
138 programs, college and university courses, in-service training programs, seminars and
139 conferences designed to maintain and enhance the skills of allied mental health and human
140 services professionals and which are recognized by the board.

141 “Autonomous psychoanalyst”, a person so licensed under section one hundred and sixty-
142 five B.

143 “Autonomous psychoanalytic psychotherapist”, a person so licensed under section one
144 hundred and sixty-five A.

145 “Board”, the Massachusetts board of registration of allied mental health and human
146 services professions.

147 “Educational psychologist”, a person so licensed under section one hundred and sixty-five.

148 “Marriage and family therapist”, a person so licensed under section one hundred and sixty-
149 five.

150 “Mental health counselor”, a person so licensed under section one hundred and sixty-five.

151 “Practice of educational psychology”, the rendering of professional services to individuals,
152 groups, organizations, or the public for compensation, monetary or otherwise. Such
153 professional services shall include, but not be limited to: applying psychological principles,
154 methods and procedures in the delivery of services to individuals, groups, families,
155 educational institutions and staff and community agencies for the purpose of promoting
156 mental health and facilitating learning. Such services may be preventative, developmental
157 or remedial and include psychological and psychoeducational assessment, therapeutic
158 intervention, program planning and evaluation, research, teaching in the field of
159 educational psychology, consultation and referral to other psychiatric, psychological,
160 medical and educational resources when necessary.

161 “Practice of marriage and family therapy”, the rendering of professional services to
162 individuals, family groups, couples, or organizations, either public or private for
163 compensation, monetary or otherwise. Said professional services shall include, but not be
164 limited to, applying principles, methods and therapeutic techniques for the purpose of
165 resolving emotional conflicts, modifying perceptions and behavior, enhancing
166 communications and understanding among all family members and the prevention of
167 family and individual crisis. Individual marriage and family therapists may also engage in
168 psychotherapy of a nonmedical nature with appropriate referrals to psychiatric resources
169 and research and teaching in the overall field of human development and interpersonal
170 relationships.

171 “Practice of mental health counseling”, the rendering of professional services to individuals,
172 families, or groups for compensation, monetary or otherwise. These professional services
173 include: applying the principles, methods and theories of counseling, human development,
174 learning theory, group and family dynamics, the etiology of mental illness and
175 dysfunctional behavior and psychotherapeutic techniques to define goals and develop
176 treatment plans aimed toward the prevention, treatment and resolution of mental and
177 emotional dysfunction and intra or interpersonal disorders in all persons irrespective of
178 diagnosis. The practice of mental health counseling shall include, but not be limited to,
179 diagnosis and treatment, counseling and psychotherapy, of a nonmedical nature of mental
180 and emotional disorders and the psychoeducational techniques aimed at prevention of
181 such disorders and consultations to individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations
182 and communities. Practice of mental health counseling in independent practice with
183 individuals diagnosed with psychosis may be undertaken by a licensed mental health
184 counselor: (a) who is licensed under section 165 on or after March 1, 1992; or (b) who was
185 licensed prior to March 1, 1992 and who meets the certification criteria for independent
186 practice with individuals diagnosed with psychosis as established by the board of
187 registration of allied mental health and human services professions.

188 “Practice of psychoanalysis”, the rendering of professional services to individuals, families,
189 groups of individuals, organizations or members of the public, for compensation, monetary
190 or otherwise. These professional services shall include, but not be limited to, applying the
191 principles, methods, and theories of psychoanalysis to the prevention, observation,
192 identification, evaluation, interpretation, or resolution of mental, emotional, family, or
193 social dysfunction in all persons, irrespective of diagnosis. Psychoanalytic principles and
194 methods address dynamic conscious and unconscious mental processes to facilitate
195 modifications in character, behavior, and affect that lead to more constructive or
196 satisfactory functioning through the use of verbal and non-verbal, cognitive and emotional
197 communication, including an in depth exploration of the unconscious aspects of the client's
198 relationship with the analyst, the unconscious meaning of communications, and the way
199 current problems relate to early conflicts and feelings. The practice of psychoanalysis shall
200 include, but not be limited to, the use of psychotherapy and counseling to diagnose and
201 treat dysfunctions and disorders.

202 “Practice of psychoanalytic psychotherapy”, the rendering of professional services to
203 individuals, families, groups of individuals, organizations or members of the public, for
204 compensation, monetary or otherwise. These professional services shall include, but not
205 be limited to, applying modified psychoanalytic principles and theories and
206 psychotherapeutic techniques to the prevention, observation, identification, evaluation,
207 interpretation, or resolution of mental, emotional, family, or social dysfunction in all
208 persons, irrespective of diagnosis. Psychoanalytic psychotherapy addresses conscious and

unconscious mental processes to facilitate modifications in behavior, work and life adaptation, and mental health through the use of verbal and non-verbal communication, including an emphasis on the way current problems relate to early experience. The practice of psychoanalytic psychotherapy shall include, but not be limited to, the use of psychotherapy and counseling to diagnose and treat dysfunctions and disorders.

“Practice of rehabilitation counseling”, the rendering of professional services for compensation, monetary or otherwise. These professional services include the application of principles, methods and techniques of the rehabilitation counseling profession such as client assessment, job analysis, vocational assessment, counseling and job development for the purpose of maximizing or restoring the capacities of physically or mentally handicapped individuals for self-sufficiency and independent living including vocational and social functioning and creating those conditions favorable to this goal. The practice of rehabilitation counseling shall include, but not be limited to: assisting individuals in the coordination of appropriate services; counseling with individuals, families or groups; serving an advocacy role with communities or groups toward the provision or implementation of rehabilitation services; research and teaching in the field of rehabilitation counselor education.

“Psychoanalyst”, an individual who is licensed as an autonomous psychoanalyst or is a recognized mental health professional who has received a post-master’s certificate or doctoral degree in psychoanalysis from a recognized psychoanalytic training institution.

“Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist”, an individual who is licensed as an autonomous psychoanalytic psychotherapist or is a recognized mental health professional engaged in the practice of psychoanalytic psychotherapy.

“Recognized educational institution”, any degree-granting educational institution which is recognized by the board and by a nationally or regionally recognized educational or professional accrediting organization; provided, however, that such organization is also approved by the United States Department of Education. In its discretion, the board may recognize additional educational institutions.

“Recognized psychoanalytic training institution”, any psychoanalytic training institution which grants a post-master’s certificate or doctoral degree in psychoanalysis and is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the board.

“Recognized mental health professional”, a licensed alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed allied mental health and human services professional, a licensed physician who has completed training in psychiatry, a licensed psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialist, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed social worker.

244 “Rehabilitation counselor”, a person so licensed under section one hundred and sixty-five.
245 “Use a title or description of”, means to hold oneself out to the public as having a particular
246 status by means of statements on signs, mailboxes, address plates, stationery,
247 announcement, calling cards, web pages, or other instruments of professional
248 identification.

249 Section 164. Except as otherwise provided in sections one hundred and sixty-three to one
250 hundred and seventy-two, inclusive, no individual who is not licensed or exempted from
251 licensure under said sections shall practice, advertise the performance of, or use a title or
252 description of:

- 253 (1) psychoanalytic psychotherapist, psychoanalytic therapist;
- 254 (2) educational psychologist, specialist, advisor or consultant;
- 255 (3) mental health counselor, advisor or consultant;
- 256 (4) marital or marriage and family therapist, advisor or consultant;
- 257 (5) psychoanalyst, analyst (when used in conjunction with mental health services); or
- 258 (6) rehabilitation counselor, specialist, advisor or consultant.

259 Except as otherwise provided in section 65F, the following shall be exempt from this
260 section:

- 261 (1) recognized mental health professionals;
- 262 (2) students in the discipline of a recognized mental health professional so long as they are
263 following the statutes and regulations of that profession.
- 264 (3) students, interns, or other trainees in an allied mental health and human services
265 profession receiving qualified supervision approved by the board, and whose training
266 status is designated by titles such as “mental health counseling student” or “marriage and
267 family therapy intern”.

268 Except as otherwise provided in section 65F, nothing in this section shall be construed to
269 prevent qualified members of other professions including Christian Science practitioners,
270 registered nurses, physicians, attorneys, or members of the clergy from doing the work
271 consistent with the accepted standards of their respective professions; provided, however,
272 that no such person shall use a title stating or implying that they are an allied mental health
273 and human services professional.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent members of peer groups or self-help groups from performing peer counseling or self-help activities which may be, wholly or in part, included as a defined professional service in section one hundred and sixty-three; provided, however, that no members of peer groups or self-help groups shall use a title stating or implying that they are an allied mental health or human services professional.

SECTION 7. Said chapter 112 as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition is hereby amended by adding Sections 165A and 165B following Sections 165, as follows:

Section 165A. The board may issue a license to an applicant as an autonomous psychoanalytic psychotherapist provided that each such applicant shall provide satisfactory evidence to the board that such applicant: (1) is of good moral character; (2) has not engaged or is not engaging in any practice or conduct which would be grounds for refusing to issue a license under section one hundred and sixty-nine; (3) has successfully completed a master's degree, or higher, from a recognized educational institution; (4) has successfully completed a program in psychoanalytic psychotherapy that includes a minimum of 1200 clock hours of training from a recognized psychoanalytic training institution **chartered by the Commonwealth to offer a master's degree or higher**. Such hours may also fulfill requirements for (3) of this Section. Within the 1200 clock hours, the applicant shall have completed at least 600 clock hours of academic work, in such courses as the board shall specify, and shall have completed at least 600 clock hours in an internship with such direct client contact and supervision as the board shall specify, so long as 50% of such supervision is with a psychoanalyst; (5) additionally, the applicant shall complete supervised clinical experience of not less than 1500 hours, which includes such direct client contact, supervision, and personal analysis as the board shall specify, so long as 50% of such supervision is with a psychoanalyst, and so long as the applicant completes a minimum of 150 hours of personal analysis with a psychoanalyst; and (6) the applicant shall successfully pass a written or oral examination overseen by the board to determine the applicant's qualifications for licensure pursuant to this section.

Individuals formerly practicing legally as psychoanalytic psychotherapists in other jurisdictions may be licensed in the Commonwealth without examination if, in the opinion of the board, their academic and experiential training is substantially equivalent to that required by this section and the regulations of the board.

For a period of one year following the enactment of regulations in support of this act, individuals engaged in the practice of psychoanalytic psychotherapy shall be grandfathered and exempted from the foregoing items (3) through (6) provided that they are of good moral character and have not been engaging in practice or conduct that would otherwise disqualify them from licensure.

310 Section 165B. The board may issue a license to an applicant as an autonomous
311 psychoanalyst provided that each such applicant shall provide satisfactory evidence to the
312 board that such applicant: (1) is of good moral character; (2) has not engaged or is not
313 engaging in any practice or conduct which would be grounds for refusing to issue a license
314 under section one hundred and sixty-nine; (3) has successfully completed a master's
315 degree, or higher, from a recognized educational institution; (4) has successfully completed
316 a program in psychoanalysis which includes a minimum of 2250 clock hours of training
317 from a recognized psychoanalytic training institution **chartered by the Commonwealth**
318 **to offer a master's degree or higher**. Such hours may also fulfill requirements for (3) of
319 this Section. Within the 2250 clock hours, the applicant shall have completed at least 1100
320 clock hours of academic work in such courses as the board shall specify, shall have
321 completed at least 600 clock hours in an internship with such direct client contact and
322 supervision as the board shall specify, so long as 50% of such supervision is with a
323 psychoanalyst, and shall have completed supervised psychoanalytic practice totaling not
324 less than 550 hours, with such direct client contact and supervision as the board shall
325 specify, so long as such supervision is with a psychoanalyst; (5) additionally, the applicant
326 shall complete supervised clinical experience totaling not less than 1700 hours, which
327 includes such direct client contact, supervision, and personal analysis as the board shall
328 specify, so long as 50% of such supervision is with a psychoanalyst, and so long as the
329 applicant completes a minimum of 350 hours of personal analysis with a psychoanalyst;
330 and (6) the applicant shall successfully pass a written or oral examination overseen by the
331 board to determine the applicant's qualifications for licensure pursuant to this section.

332 Individuals formerly practicing legally as psychoanalysts in other jurisdictions may be
333 licensed in the Commonwealth without examination if, in the opinion of the board, their
334 academic and experiential training is substantially equivalent to that required by this
335 section and the regulations of the board.

336 For a period of one year following the enactment of regulations in support of this act,
337 individuals engaged in the practice of psychoanalysis shall be grandfathered and exempted
338 from the foregoing items (3) through (6) provided that they are of good moral character
339 and have not been engaging in practice or conduct that would otherwise disqualify them
340 from licensure.